

Gov. Jennifer Granholm
Michigan
Gov. Tim Pawlenty
Minnesota
Gov. Rob Riley
Alabama
Gov. Sarah Palin
Alaska
Gov. Bill Ritter
Colorado
Gov. M. Jodi Rell
Connecticut
Gov. Ruth Ann Minner
Delaware
Gov. Sonny Perdue
Georgia
Gov. Rod Blagojevich
Illinois
Gov. Chet Culver
Iowa
Gov. Kathleen Sebelius
Kansas
Gov. Ernie Fletcher
Kentucky
Gov. Kathleen Blanco
Louisiana
Gov. John Baldacci
Maine
Gov. Deval Patrick
Massachusetts
Gov. Brian Schweitzer
Montana
Gov. Jim Gibbons
Nevada
Gov. Jon S. Corzine
New Jersey
Gov. Bill Richardson
New Mexico
Gov. Eliot Spitzer
New York
Gov. Mike Easley
North Carolina
Gov. Mike Hoeven
North Dakota
Gov. Ted Strickland
Ohio
Gov. Brad Henry
Oklahoma
Gov. Ted Kulongoski
Oregon
Gov. Edward Rendell
Pennsylvania
Gov. Donald Carcieri
Rhode Island
Gov. Jon Huntsman, Jr.
Utah
Gov. James Douglas
Vermont
Gov. Tim Kaine
Virginia
Gov. Chris Gregoire
Washington
Gov. Joe Manchin III
West Virginia
Gov. Jim Doyle
Wisconsin
Gov. Dave Freudenthal
Wyoming
Gov. Mike Rounds
South Dakota

February 15, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
US House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
US House of Representatives

Dear Senator Reid, Senator McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Representative Boehner,

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides heating and cooling assistance to low-income households, with benefits targeting the elderly, disabled and families that often have to make the hard choices between paying for heating or cooling bills and food, medicine and other essential needs. As governors, we have worked over the years to help assure that our most vulnerable residents are not overwhelmed by the volatile nature of home energy costs. This has often meant significant state contributions to emergency relief funds or supplementing existing state-federal programs.

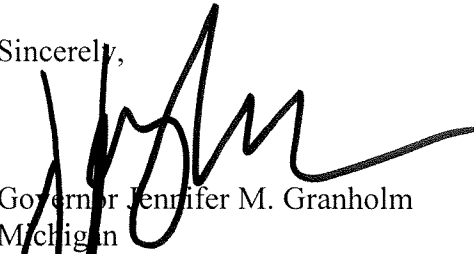
In 2006, we were grateful that Congress made a significant investment in LIHEAP, recognizing that soaring energy prices required additional funding for the program. While still well short of the authorized level of \$5.1 billion, the 2006 funding level of \$3.2 billion gave eligible citizens in all of our states the purchasing power needed to pay their heating or cooling bills.

Unfortunately, the Continuing Resolution for FY 2007 would decrease LIHEAP funding to \$2.16 billion while the President's FY 2008 budget proposal would further cut available funds for FY 2008 to \$1.78 billion. Neither of these funding levels will allow states to adequately address the needs of hundreds of thousands of households across the country that struggle every month to pay their heating and cooling bills. We urge you to use the 2006 funding level of \$3.2 billion as a base to build from in the future — not a one time emergency investment in energy assistance.

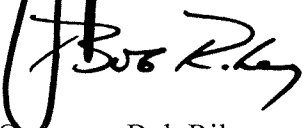
Should future funding opportunities arise in the current fiscal year we hope that you seriously consider supplementing the LIHEAP program with additional funds and as you consider the FY 2008 budget in the coming months, it is imperative that you make every effort to return LIHEAP funding to a baseline of at least \$3.2 billion.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your continued commitment to assisting our neediest families. We hope that you will take this opportunity to actively support the LIHEAP program.


Sincerely,



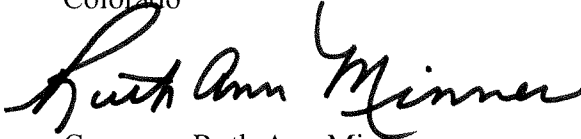
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Governor Bob Riley
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Governor Bill Ritter
Colorado



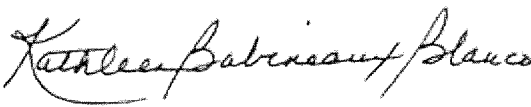
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Delaware




Governor Rod Blagojevich
Illinois




Governor Kathleen Sebelius
Kansas



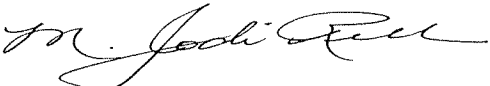
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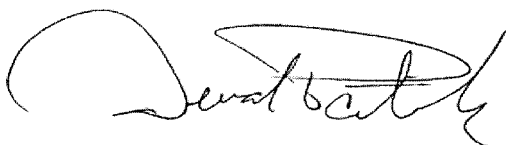
Governor Chet Culver
Iowa



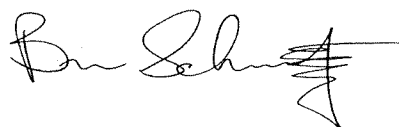
Governor Ernie Fletcher
Kentucky



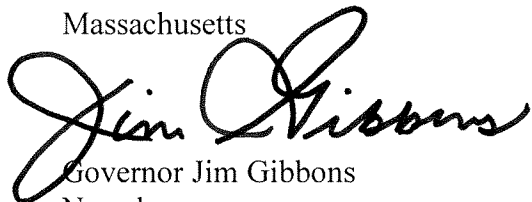
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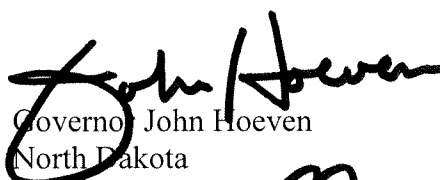
Governor Bill Richardson
New Mexico



Governor Eliot Spitzer
New York



Governor Michael F. Easley
North Carolina



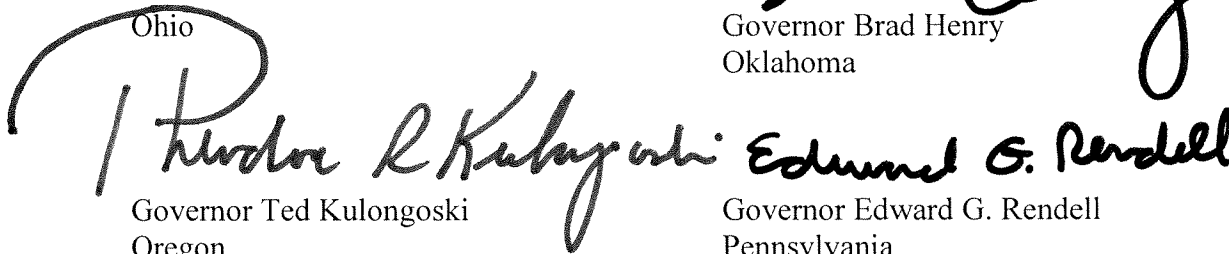
Governor John Hoeven
North Dakota



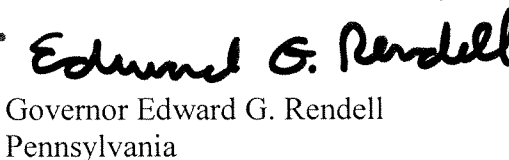
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Ohio



Governor Brad Henry
Oklahoma



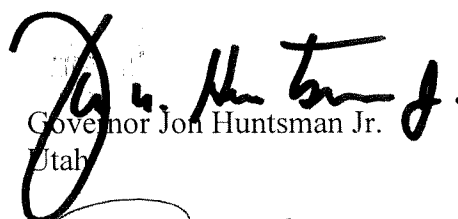
Governor Ted Kulongoski
Oregon



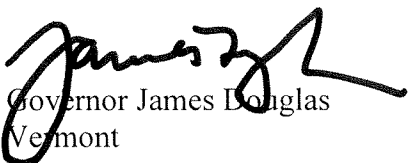
Governor Edward G. Rendell
Pennsylvania



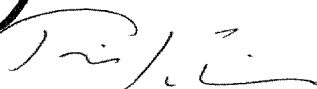
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